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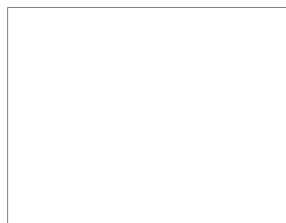
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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER

**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**UNIQUE, POSSIBLE WEAPONS-RELATED FACILITIES
AT PAI-CHENG WEAPONS TEST RANGE
CHINA**



GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

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NOVEMBER 1970
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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME

Unique, Possible Weapons-Related Facilities at Pai-cheng Weapons Test Range

COUNTRY

CH

UTM COORDINATES

NA

GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES

45-46-05N 122-44-58E

CATEGORY

NA

BE NUMBER

None

COMIREX NO.

NA

MAP REFERENCE

USATC, Series 200, Sheet 0284-15, 3d ed, Nov 67, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

REQUIREMENT

NA

NPIC PROJECT

IEG/MSD/DMB 143281NW

ABSTRACT

1. Three unique, possible weapons-related facilities, arranged in a triangular pattern, are under construction at the Pai-cheng Weapons Test Range. When complete, each facility probably will consist of three structural units also arranged in a triangular pattern. Eight of the nine structural units probably will be similar. The ninth unit is somewhat different in appearance, but it probably will serve the same purpose as the other units.

2. The specific function of these facilities is unknown. The proximity of the facilities to the test range suggests that they are possibly being constructed for the development and testing of some type of hardened facilities. However, they could serve an operational function. The test range may have been selected because of its geographic location and the availability of extensive support facilities.

3. Initial construction of the facilities probably began sometime between April and June 1970. They were first observed in the early stages of construction on photography of late June 1970.

4. This report is the first NPIC report on these facilities. It is based on photography of June and August 1970 and includes photographs and detailed drawings to support the text.

INTRODUCTION

5. Three unique, possible weapons-related facilities are 4 nautical miles (nm) northeast of the rangehead at the Pai-cheng Weapons Test Range (Figures 1 and 2).

6. The Pai-cheng Weapons Test Range is in northeast China, approximately 450 nm northeast of Peking and approximately 140 nm southeast of the closest point on the Mongolian frontier. The test range is primarily an ordnance development and test facility. It contains several firing complexes, associated instrumentation, impact areas, and storage areas.¹ A wide variety of field fortifications, probably for developmental purposes, is also evident. No evidence of test activity has been observed since 1968.

7. The main support areas at the rangehead include an industrial area and a large administration and housing area, which has been expanded by approximately 50 percent since 1963. Other probably range-associated facilities, such as ammunition storage and probable isolated weapons test positions, are just northwest of the rangehead on both sides of the main rail line that serves the weapons test range.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

8. The three unique, possible weapons-related facilities, designated A, B, and C, respectively (Figure 3), are spaced approximately 0.5 nm apart and form an equilateral triangle. They are in various stages of construction. When complete, each of the three facilities probably will consist of three structural units also arranged in a triangular pattern.

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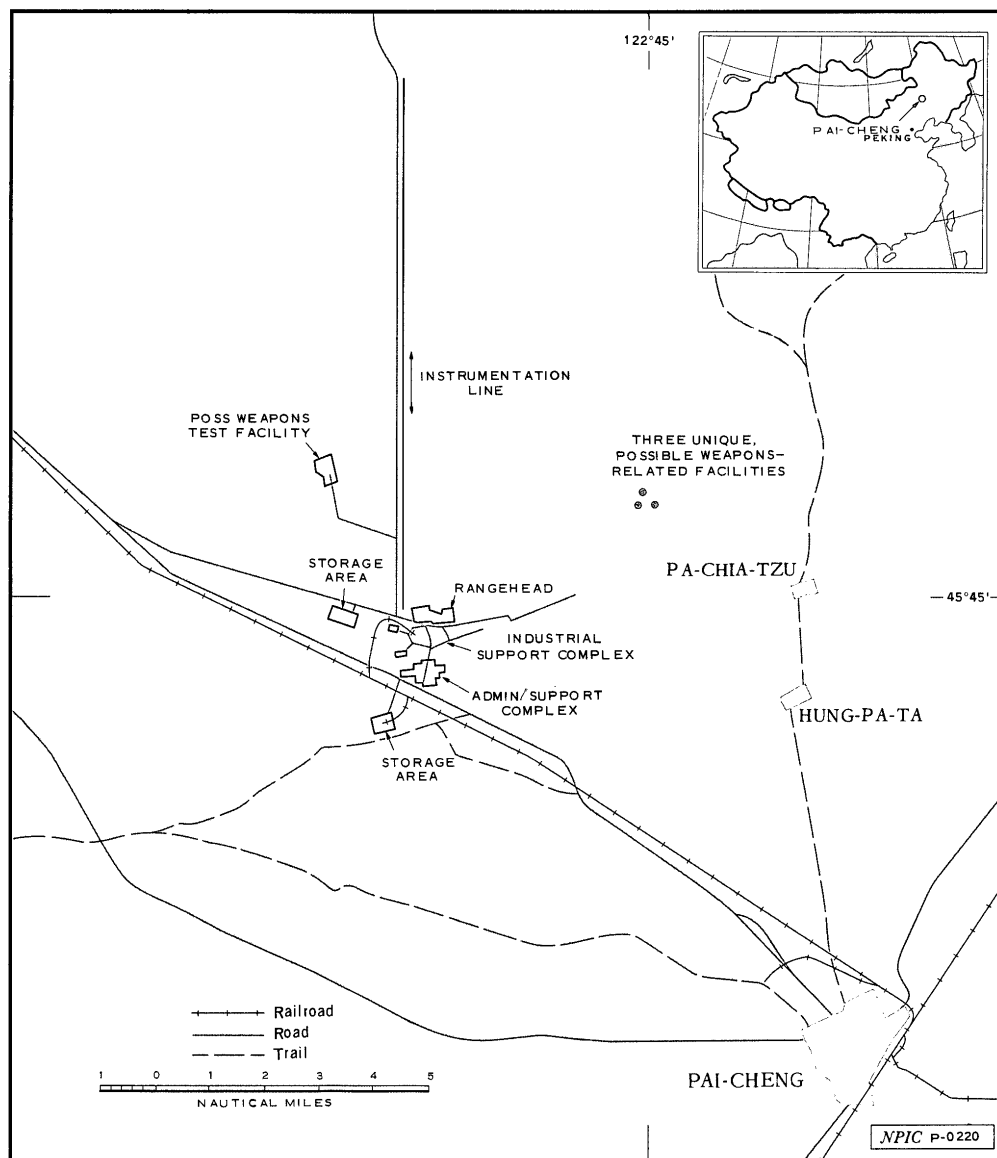


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF PAI-CHENG WEAPONS TEST RANGE

9. Construction of the structural units at facility A had progressed [redacted] to the point where the basic shapes of the units were evident. Two of the units, designated units 2 and 3, respectively, are similar (Figures 4 and 6). Each consists of a concrete arch-roofed building and cylindrical, tank-like structures on each side of and parallel to the arch-roofed building. Tubular conduits or passageways connect the tank-like structures to the arch-roofed building.

10. The arch-roofed building, which was built on a concrete slab near grade level, has rectangular probable reinforced concrete entrances at both ends. The cylindrical tank-like structures, which also were constructed or installed on concrete slabs, are housed in excavations considerably below grade level. One of the cylindrical structures has a single large tubular conduit or passageway connecting it to the arch-roofed building. The cylindrical structure on the opposite side of the arch-roofed building is connected to the arch-roofed building by two smaller conduits or passageways. All of the tubular conduits or passageways are supported on beveled concrete blocks and set at an angle down from the arch-roofed building to the cylindrical tank-like structures.

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11. The third unit, designated unit 1 (item 1, Figures 4 and 7), is somewhat different in appearance. It consists of two shorter arch-roofed buildings, each of which has a cylindrical section attached at right angles to its outer side and rectangular concrete probable entrances at both ends. The arch-roofed buildings are arranged in an open "V" pattern and are connected by a centrally located, cylindrical tank-like structure. All of the structural components were built on concrete slabs. The arch-roofed buildings were constructed near grade level. The cylindrical-shaped components were constructed in shallow excavations.

12. The structural units that comprise facility B and facility C (Figure 5), which were observed to be in early stages of construction, probably will be similar to units 2 and 3 at facility A. Although the V-shaped unit at facility A is the only one of its type, there are three related excavations (Figure 2) approximately 2 nm to the southwest. They are probably intended for the construction of similar V-shaped units. These excavations are also arranged to form a triangular pattern.

13. Plan view drawings with dimensions of the structural units at facility A are included in Figure 7. A composite perspective of units 2 and 3 is shown in Figure 6.

14. The only apparent structural difference between units 2 and 3 is a difference in lengths of corresponding cylindrical tank-like structures that are connected to the arch-roofed building by the two conduits or passageways (Figure 7).

The difference in length of these structures will probably be repeated at facilities B and C. A comparison of units 2 and 3 with the excavations at facilities B and C reveals that, when complete, two structural units at each of these facilities probably will resemble unit 2, and the third unit at each facility probably will resemble unit 3 (Figures 4 and 5).

15. The dimensions of the structural components that comprise unit 1 at facility A (the V-shaped unit) are similar to those of units 2 and 3. If these components were hypothetically rearranged as indicated by matching the letter annotations in the plan view drawings shown in Figure 7, unit 1 would be quite similar to units 2 and 3. This suggests that both configurations at facility A will serve the same function, and that the V-shaped unit probably represents an alternate design.

Functional Possibilities

16. The specific function of the facilities cannot be determined at this time with any degree of confidence. The location of the facilities at the test range suggests that they are possibly associated with the development and testing of some type of hardened weapons-related facility. However, the number of similarly configured units suggests an operational function. The test range may have been selected for its geographic location and the availability of extensive support facilities.

Status

17. Initial construction of the facilities probably began sometime between April and June 1970. Construction activity was first evident By that date, excavations for all but one of the units were complete or nearly complete. Initial grading was in progress on the northernmost unit at facility C. The concrete slab foundations for the three units at facility A were present, and the centrally located, cylindrical tank-like structure for unit 1 (the V-shaped unit) was in place. The three related excavations, which are similar to that for unit 1, were also present. Serpentine-like trenches, were evident between facilities A and B and between facilities B and C. Shorter trenches were present within facility A. However, similar trenches were present in other parts of the test range prior to June 1970.

18. The basic structural components for each of the three units at facility A were complete on photography. In addition, a rectangular open framework structure was visible over the entire arch-roofed building of unit 3. This framework may consist of building forms used in the construction of the concrete building. If so, the framework would

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be removed eventually, and the basic shape of units 2 and 3 would resemble unit 2. On the other hand, this framework may be indicative of a later stage of construction that could alter the basic shape of both units.

19. The concrete slab foundations for the arch-roofed buildings and cylindrical tank-like structures were present at facility B. Similar foundations were present for the units at facility C. In addition, the northernmost unit at facility C was in early-to-mid stages of construction. No change was evident in the construction status of the three related excavations west of the three facilities.

20. Selected structural units in various stages of construction are shown in Figure 8. The photographs are arranged to show the construction stages in chronological sequence.

Essential Services and Security

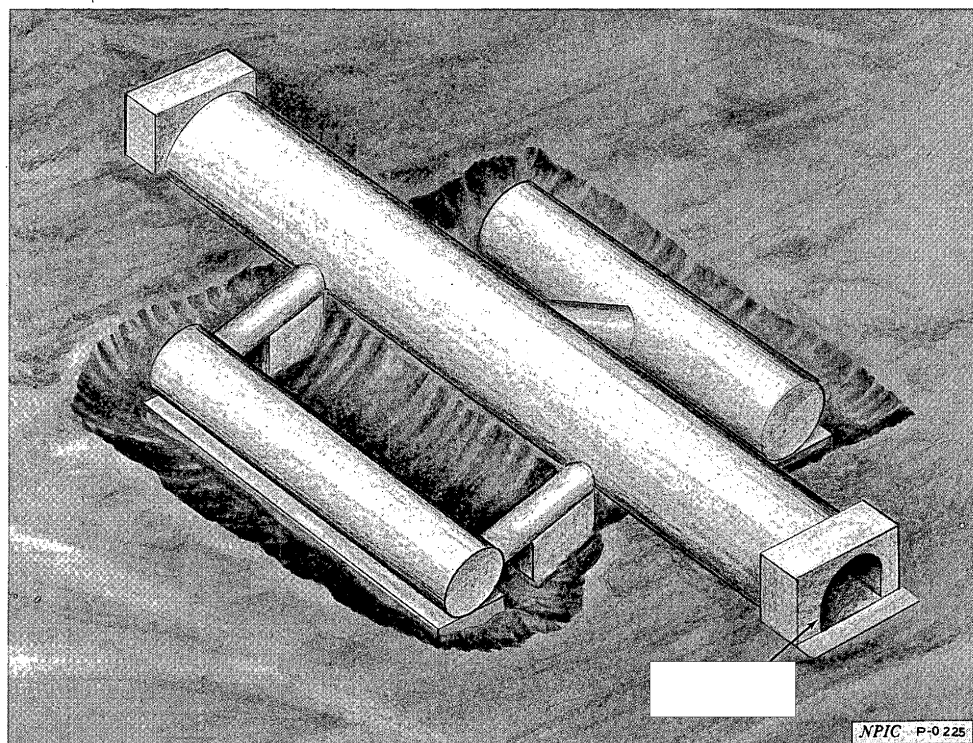
21. The facilities are connected to the rangehead by an unpaved road. The nearest rail line is the main line that serves the test range. Electric power is available via a single power line from this rangehead.

No visible security measures are apparent.

Associated Objects

22. A buildup of construction materials, including probable concreted products, has been evident in open storage on the east side of the industrial area since early 1970. Seven cylindrical, tank-like structures were first observed in a separately secured yard in this same area in August 1970 (Figure 2). These structures ranged in length from 13.0 meters (43 feet)

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FIGURE 6. COMPOSITE PERSPECTIVE OF UNITS 2 AND 3 AT FACILITY A.

The tubular conduits or passageways connecting the major structures are supported on beveled concrete blocks.

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MAPS OR CHARTS

USATC, Series 200, Sheet 024 8-15, 3d ed, Nov 67, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

DOCUMENT

1. NPIC: [redacted] R-170/64, *Test Facility Tao-an, China*, Mar 64 (TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF/

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REQUIREMENT

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